



August 18, 2006
Citizens' Health Care Working Group
7201 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 575
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Working Group,

RESULTS is a citizen's grassroots lobby committed to ending hunger and abject poverty. We have volunteer groups in 100 communities across the United States. On behalf of our network of activists across the country we submit the following comments to you.

Thank you for providing a channel for the American public to express their opinion on what they want in a health care system. You note in your recommendations that "A clear majority of people we heard from, like the majorities responding to a variety of national polls conducted over the past few years, are in favor of a national system that guarantees health care for all Americans." We endorse the Institute of Medicine's recommendation for health care for all by 2010.

However, we are concerned that the Working Group's current recommendations do not adequately ensure that this country will move toward a system of health care for all. We believe that the recommendations need to be reordered and that a timeline needs to be established to spur action by the administration and Congress. Without a timeline, there is a risk of continuing delay in dealing with the nation's health care crisis.

The millions of Americans without health insurance need change now. Without urgent action, the health care system is likely to deteriorate, not improve. Specifically, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities indicates that next year 17 states will experience a SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Plan) funding shortfall of \$800 million — the cost of covering 530,000 children. And by 2010, Families USA is reporting that the cost per person for coverage of the uninsured is expected to rise to \$1,502. RESULTS believes that in order for there to be true reform, the Working Group must propose dates by which its recommendations should to be implemented. Congress and administrations can then be held to account to take timely action.

RESULTS also believes that the first recommendation listed in your final report should be your plan for providing all Americans with affordable health care. The recommendation of catastrophic care should come second. This should be followed by the recommendation of defining a 'core' benefit package for all Americans. Members of

Congress and the president need to know up front that health care for all is the final goal and that catastrophic care and community health centers should be steps that lead up to coverage for everyone.

Thank you for your work to improve our health care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan W. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" and last name "Gold" being the most prominent parts.

Alan W. Gold

Senior Advisor

Cc: Senator Hatch

Senator Wyden

Becky Martin

Jessica Federer